

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KHARTO 03769 181142Z
ACTION SS-25

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P R 181115Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3225
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T KHARTOUM 3769

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SU, US, XA
SUBJECT: USG/GOS RELATIONS

REF: KHARTOUM 3733 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY. NIMEIRI HAS PRIVATELY EXPRESSED CONCERN RE "COMMUNIST" MACHINATIONS INVOLVING MOST OF SUDAN'S NEIGHBORS. HE WISHES USG TO KNOW HE IN POSITION "CHANGE THINGS" TO PRESERVE ANTI-COMMUNIST POSITION IN AFRICA, PROVIDED USG LENDS UNSPECIFIED PRIVATE SUPPORT. WHILE SOME OF HIS CONCERN NO DOUBT GENUINE, IT BY NO MEANS CLEAR THAT SITUATION WARRANTS THIS TYPE RESPONSE. END SUMMARY.

1. MINSTATE SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS DR. BAHU IDRIS SUMMONED ME DEC 18 TO REPORT HE HAD BRIEFED NIMEIRI PREVIOUS DAY ON MY REVIEW STATUS OUR PENDING PROGRAMS (REFTEL). PRESIDENT HAD BEEN PLEASED WITH PROGRESS AND HAD COMMENTED THAT SOME PROCEDURES ALWAYS TAKE TIME. HE HAD INSTRUCTED IDRIS TO ASSURE THAT, FOR ITS PART, THERE NO DELAYS BY GOS AGENCIES IN CONCLUDING PENDING PROJECTS (E.G. PL 480 WHEAT ITEM).

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2. IDRIS THEN SAID PRESIDENT WISHED ME TO INFORM USG THAT HE WAS FULLY PREPARED COOPERATE IN COMBATTING WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS COMMUNIST INROADS IN AFRICA. REVIEWING CONTACTS WITH ITS NINE NEIGHBORS, IDRIS VOICED CONCERN RE "COMMUNIST" ACTIVITIES IN LIBYA, CHAD, CAE, UGANDA, ETHIOPIA AND ANGOLA. NIMEIRI

WISHED US TO KNOW THAT HE COULD "CHANGE THINGS" IN THESE COUNTRIES BUT *LYREIJMFJQVEOFE ((#) USG SUPPORT. THIS COULD

BE DIRECT OR THROUGH FRIENDS SUCH AS SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAN, WITH BOTH OF WHICH SUDAN COOPERATING CLOSELY. NIMEIRI HAD ALSO NOTED HIS CONTINUING EFFORTS MEDiate ERITREAN ISSUE WERE BEGINNING BEAR FRUIT AND HAD ASSERTED THAT THIS REGION COULD BE FIRMLY IN ANTI-COMMUNIST CAMP IN THREE MONTHS IF USG LET PRIVATE ASSISTANCE.

3. REMINDING IDRIS WE ALREADY SUPPORTING NIMEIRI'S ERITREAN MEDIATION, I SOUGHT CLARIFY BASIS FOR HIS CONCERN RE NEW "COMMUNIST" INROADS. IDRIS ADMITTED CHIEF PROBLEM SEEMED TO BE LIBYAN MACHINATIONS. HE HAD ASKED FONOFF HERE FOR FULL REPORT BUT COULD NOT BE TOO SPECIFIC PENDING ITS RECEIPT. I COMMENTED PERSONALLY THAT SUCH INFORMATION AS WE HAD SEEN RE LIBYAN/CAE TIES AND QUADHAFI'S RECENT VISIT TO MOSCOW WOULD NOT APPEAR WARRANT ALARMIST CONCLUSION, THOUGH ERRATIC LIBYAN LEADER ADMITTEDLY BORE WATCHING. MOREOVER, PRIVATE ASSISTANCE OF TYPE HE SEEMED BE SUGGESTING WAS NOT LIKELY BE AS SUCCESSFUL AS STEADY WORK THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS AND OAU TO MARSHAL MODERATE OPPOSITION TO ANY SUCH NEW THREAT. IDRIS REPLIED SOMEWHAT INDIRECTLY THAT TRANSPORTATION AND SMALL ARMS MIGHT BE NEEDED. HE THOUGHT PERHAPS THESE MIGHT BE AVAILABLE IN IRAN OR SAUDI ARABIA BUT USG SUPPORT, EVEN AUTHORIZATION, MIGHT BE NEEDED. I CONCLUDED THAT I WOULD REPORT CONVERSATION TO DEPT BUT COULD GIVE NO ASSURANCE AS TO RESPONSE.

4. COMMENT: THERE NO QUESTION BUT THAT NIMEIRI IS CONSIDERABLY WORRIED BY RENEWED EVIDENCE LIBYAN ACTIVITIES IN NEIGHBORING
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COUNTRIES, ON HEELS LARG'S PARTICIPATION IN COUP ATTEMPT HERE LAST JULY. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND SUDANESE/ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS CHARACTERIZED BY RENEWED TENSION AT SAME TIME, WE PRESUMABLY WOULD NOT WISH GET INVOLVED IN ANY NEW FILIBUSTERING ACTIVITIES IN THIS PART OF AFRICA. RECOMMEND I BE AUTHORIZED RESPOND THAT WE CONTINUE SUPPORT NIMEIRI'S STATESMANLIKE EFFORTS RESOLVE AREA PROBLEMS AND WISH CONTINUE DO WHAT WE CAN TO ASSIST SUDANESE DEVELOPMENT BUT THAT ANY ASSOCIATION IN SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES OF TYPE HE APPEARS HAVE IN MIND WOULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE AND CONTRARY RECENT EXPRESSIONS PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL OPINION ON SUCH SUBJECTS. PLEASE INSTRUCT. BREWER

NOTE BY OC/T: KHARTOUM 3769. PARA 2 (#) AS RECEIVED.
CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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NNN

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